(c) whether there are claims for transport subsidy pending for payment, State-wise, industry-wise as on December 31, 1996;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is any time bound programme for disbursement of such claims; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Ministry of Industry has been operating Central Transport Subsidy Scheme since July, 1971 to promote industrialisation in hilly, remote and inaccessible areas, which covers the entire Noth-Eastern region, besides Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, eight hilly district of Uttar Pradesh, Sikkim, Darjeeling district of West Bengal, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep. The Scheme is applicable to all industrial units (barring plantations, Refineries and Power Ganerating units) both in the public and the private sectors. Under the scheme, subsidy ranging between 50% to 90% is admissible on transport cost incurred on movement of raw material and finished goods from the selected Rail heads/ Ports upto the location of the industrial units and vice-versa. The scheme has been extended from time to time and is valid up to 31.03.2000.

(c) and (d) Details of claims for Transport Subsidy pending for reimbursement to the North-Eastern Region as on 31.12.1996 State-wise are as under:-

States	Rs. in lakhs
Assam	6.42
Manipur	10.10
Tripura	26.01
Arunachal Pradesh	-
Meghalaya	506.51
Nagaland	193.93
Mizoram	-
Total	742.97

The industries covered are plywood, steel fabrications and flour milling, etc. Additionally as on 31.12.96, claims worth Rs. 504.85 lakhs have also been received on account of Court Orders.

(e) and (f) The Scheme works on disbursement/ reimbursement basis, i.e., the claims are first scrutinised and disbursed by the State Government to the eligible units and reimbursement thereof is claimed subsequently from the Central Government. Reimbursement of subsidy is made to the State Governments soon after receipt of complete claims from them and after due scrutiny.

Assistance from Germany

5444. SHRI SYDAIAH KOTA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested to the Union Government for inclusion of Krishnapatnam Industrial Port City Project for assistance from the Germany; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Since the project does not fit in with the priority of the German Government it is not being considered under official development assistance from Germany.

[Translation]

Bio-Gas Plants

5445. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) in number of bio-gas plants set up in Uttar Pradesh, particularly in Meerut Division during the last three years, till date;

(b) the number of the plants working out of these and the number of plants lying closed; location-wise;

(c) whether gas stoves are easily available in the market and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of scheme regarding setting up of bio-gas plants in Uttar Pradesh, particularly in Meerut Division during the current financial year and the time by which it is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) A total of about 47,500 family type biogas plants including about 5,200 plants in the Meerut Division, have been set up in the State of Uttar Pradesh during the period 1994-95 to 1996-97 under the Central Sector Scheme—National Project on Biogas Development (NPBD).

(b) An evaluation study carried out by the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), New Delhi in different States in year 1995 indicated that on an average about 73 percent of the plants set up in the State of Uttar Pradesh during 1992-93 to 1994-95 and surveyed were found to be functioning. Information on status of plants, including non-functional plants, is maintained in the State on a sample check basis at the block and district levels.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) NPBD is being implemented in all States and Union Territories including Uttar Pradesh during 1997-98. A target of setting up of about 12,000 plants, including about 1600 plants in the Meerut Division, has already been fixed for the State.